

Lesson Nine: The Church's Stewardship

Objective: To understand the needs of financial support in the local congregation and the larger church.

Read: 2 Corinthians 9

Introduction

How much do you know about the way in which the Synod or District uses the money given by local churches? Why not phone the Stewardship and Finance Department and ask for some information about the wider work of the Church?

God has been very clear in His Word regarding the uses of the funds the church receives from the weekly offerings. The advancement of God's Kingdom is to a degree dependent upon our offerings. However, both the local church and the national Church must be good stewards of that money.

Bible Study

At the heart of God's Work is the *Great Commission*. God wants the Gospel preached to every creature (Mark 16:15). Carrying out this mission will involve proper stewardship of everything God has given us, finding and taking opportunities, managing our abilities and our wealth. When we generously give of all three, the lost are brought to Jesus Christ.

In your own words summarize the last command Jesus gave His disciples (Matthew 28:19-20).

Read John 14:21-24. Describe how this relates to fulfilling the Great Commission.

If the Gospel is to be preached to all the world, who must be sent to do the preaching (Romans 10:13-17)?

What had the Philippians done for Paul on more than one occasion (Philippians 4:16-18)?

What does the Bible say about supporting those who give their lives to the ministry of the Word of God (1 Corinthians 9:10-11; 2 Corinthians 9:14)?

How did Jesus define his ministry in the synagogue in Nazareth (Luke 4:18-19)?

What kind of ministry did Paul instruct Timothy about (1 Timothy 5:3-25)?

Do you know of any church today that has a ministry following the example given in 1 Timothy 5?

Personal Reflection

God has placed the management of financial gifts in the hands of the church's shepherds. How can financial officers safeguard the financial well-being of the local congregation?

How can financial officers and the Stewardship Board communicate both the financial needs and assets of Calvary?

How much should the members know about the financial affairs of Calvary?

In what areas of ministry would you like to see this congregation become financially involved?

